

REMARKS

This paper merely adds claims 12-17 to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled, without adding any new matter and, also submits an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS).

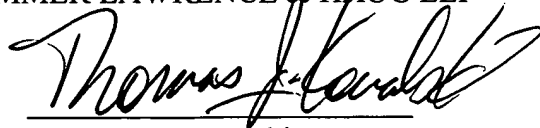
It is submitted that the claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that the claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The new claims, as presented herein, are added for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Accordingly, the amendments herewith are without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

As an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), attention is respectfully directed to Levine et al., WO 00/75329 A1, published December 14, 2002, and Levine et al., United States Patent Application 20020019350, published February 14, 2002. A copy of both publications are enclosed, together with a PTO 1449 (in duplicate) listing these documents. It is hereby certified pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2) that these documents have just come to Applicants' attention; i.e., this paper is within three months of learning of the documents (note the February 14, 2002 publication date of Patent Application 20020019350), such that pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, no fee should be due for the herein IDS or considering and making of record the documents cited herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and make of record these documents. While these documents are not prior art, it is believed they advance the previous arguments for patentability; and thus, for this reason too there should be no fee for the herein IDS or considering and making of record the documents cited herein. Any fee occasioned by this paper (e.g., for the claims added herewith) or any overpayment in such fees may be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 50-0320. This Information Disclosure Statement is not a representation that any of the cited documents are considered pertinent, or that any of the cited documents are indeed prior art.

In addition, if any issue remains as an impediment to allowance, an interview, prior to the issuance of another Office Action, is respectfully requested; and, the Examiner is additionally respectfully requested to telephonically or electronically contact the undersigned to arrange a mutually convenient time and manner for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



Thomas J. Kowalski

Reg. No. 32,147

Tel (212) 588-0800

Fax (212) 588-0500

Email TKowalski@FLHLaw.com